Franklin College Faculty Senate

Minutes of the meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM via Zoom, DeLoris Hesse presiding.

Members Present: Yohannes Abate, Michael Bachmann, Benjamin Britton, Peter Brosius, Clifton Buck, Tom Cerbu, Brian Condie, Maduranga Dassanyake, Gauri Datta, Inge DiBella, Vince Du, Allison Farley Raffle, Timothy Gupton, Cindy Hahamovitch, DeLoris Hesse, Steve Holland, Richard Hubbard, Caner Kazanci, Emily Koh, Kristin Kundert, Sidney Kushner, Vera Lee-Schoenfeld, Tianming Liu, Alisa Luxenberg, Kendall Marchman, Soroya McFarlane, Emily Mouilso, Vasant Muralidharan, Chris Peterson, Jordan Pickett, Chris Pizzino, Khaled Rasheed, Nancee Reeves, Jennifer Rice, Cassia Roth, Bala Sarasvati, Rohan Sikri, Anne Summers, Cynthia Suveg, Michael Usher, Alberto Villate-Isaza, Hang Yin

Proxies: Ryon J Cobb for Leslie Gordon Simmons

Members not present:

Guests: Brian Binder, Reaganne Coile, Janet Frick, Betina Kaplan, Shayla Lee, Jerry Legge, Dainess Maganda, Sharina Maillo-Pozo, J Martin-Williams, Aaron Meskin, Thomas Mote, Athanasasios Samaras, Mattia Pistone, Amy Ross, Janet Westpheling

Approval of the minutes of the (insert previous meeting date) meeting:

President DeLoris Hesse's Remarks:

President Hesse welcomed all new and returning Senators, and reminded everyone that the purpose of the Senate is to act as the agent of the faculty in matters of importance to Franklin College. She also asked the senators to:

- Communicate with their home departments and report concerns to the Senate.
- Review the by-laws and committee charges available on the Franklin Senate website (https://www.franklin.uga.edu/faculty-senate-laws).
- Arrange for a proxy if they will be absent from a meeting, as two consecutive absences in a row will result in removal from the Senate.

Dean Dorsey's Remarks:

- The University of Georgia's fundraising campaign ended last July after raising $1.45 billion, surpassing its goal.
- The University of Georgia's enrollment increased 0.4%, while the Franklin College enrollment increased 2.4%.

- Given that deans have the authority to manage the policy on when to disclose positive COVID-19 tests to students, Dean Dorsey stated his interest in hearing the faculty discussion of the last item of the agenda concerning the issue.
- 51 faculty are going for promotion and tenure this academic year.

Committee Reports:

- Curriculum Committee: Approved 29 new courses, 10 course changes, 3 Double Dawgs proposals, 3 new minors, 1 area of emphasis, 1 general education and 1 multicultural course proposals.
- Committee on Academic Standards: Reviewed 3 suspension appeals and 2 course substitution appeals.
- Committee on Faculty Affairs: No report.
- Committee on Planning and Evaluation: No report.

New Business:

- Nominations and Elections for 2020-21:
  - The proposed slate of committee chairs and members was unanimously approved.
  - The nomination of Caner Kazanci as the secretary of the Senate was unanimously approved.
  - President Hesse brought out the need for a parliamentarian position, responsible for the maintenance of the bylaws and committee organization. Jennifer Rice agreed with the need for a dedicated person in that role.
- Discussion and vote on updating the Franklin Senate By-Laws and meeting times:
  Deloris Hesse inquired about the need to change the meeting time, as the fifth period ends at 3:35pm according to the updated class schedule. Dr. Holland suggested to keep the current schedule while accepting the late attendance of senators who teach during the fifth period. Dr. Muralidharan proposed to end the meetings at 4:45pm. Dr. Rasheed indicated that he teaches until 3:35pm. Dr. Rice suggested a poll to determine if the senators felt strongly about the need to shift the meeting time to 3:55pm. Overwhelming majority (close to 95%) voted No. It was reiterated that the late attendance of the senators who teach during the fifth period is understood and accepted.
- Proposal for a Minor in Swahili Language, Literature, and Culture – Dainess Maganda Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies:
  Dainess Maganda (Comparative Literature and Intercultural Studies) discussed the rise of the Swahili language not only in Africa, but all over the world. The growing interest in the language, as well as its importance for national security, provides a career advantage to students. There exists a local demand for Swahili speakers as well, since Atlanta is home to the fifth largest population of Swahili speaking immigrants. The proposal was unanimously approved.
- Proposal for a Minor in Quechua – Amy Ross and Chad Howe, Latin American and Caribbean Studies:
  Amy Ross introduced Chad Howe to discuss the proposal. He pointed out that there already exist two programs. They have been part of past federal funding, and Amy Ross

stated that they are currently at the second round of fedearal funding (title 6). There's is a need for recognition to further develop the program, which is the proposed minor. The proposal was unanimously approved.

- Proposal for a Minor in Law, Ethics, and Philosophy – Aaron Meskin and Athanasios Samaras:
  Aaron Meskin presented the proposal, which originated with a discussion involving the students. The proposal was unanimously approved.
- Discussion of UGA's policy for informing students about positive COVID-19 test results – Cindy Hahamovitch:
  - Cindy Hahamovitch thanked Dean Dorsey for attending and listening to the faculty on this issue.
  - Amy Ross suggested that classes exceeding 5% positivity rate move online for safety.
  - Cindy Hahamovich discussed the need for a different procedure for small classes when sick students can be easily identified. Cassia Roth stated that there should be exceptions in FERPA for small size classes. Betina Kaplan pointed out that the person who tested positive could very well be the instructor.
  - Alisa Luxenberg brought out the issue of under-reporting, whereby students decide to self-quarantine but choose not to get officially tested due to pressure. Janet Westpheling agreed and gave the example of a student who got tested outside of UGA, but did not report it to UGA, probably because they did not want to move, or want to be under quarantine. She added that if students test positive but do not report it and ask for an accommodation in terms of class work, faculty may insist that they report in order to obtain accommodation.
  - Inge DiBella stated the importance of transparency, in that a positive case is not the most important information because people can be carriers, and that we should all treat ourselves as such. Focusing too much on this number may bring out a false sense of security. Michael Usher stated that the rates are so high that students are likely to get infected, as they will be running into exposed people during their daily lives. As instructors, we should make sure that students know this general fact, independently of what case-by-case notification policies are put in place.
  - Chris Peterson indicated that 12.5% of his class of 96 has tested positive. Cindy Hahamovitch added that 9% of her class have tested positive. Amy Ross stated that 15 of her 30 are positive or exposed. Cliff Buck indicated that they have similar attendance rates in Marine Science. He added that the risk is growing the longer the process takes, so timely decisions are needed to reduce the risk to all involved.
  - Cindy Hahamovitch asked if it is true that FERPA doesn't pertain if a student gives written permission to notify the class. Soroya McFarlane recommended that faculty inform the students about a positive case, but never confirm who it is verbally or in writing, even if students may or may not speculate. This is not a stigmatizing disease (in the traditional sense e.g. sexual/reproductive related) and public health should take priority. Sidney Kushner stated that FERPA was not designed for this specific situation, and that hiding this information from students would be poor interpretation of FERPA laws, and immoral.

- Chris Pizzino suggested undergraduate coordinators determine this policy for each department. Cindy Hahamovitch agreed. Alberto Villate-Isaza stated that instructors should be the ones informing the class. Betina Kaplan agreed, stating the Spanish language program has about 5000 students and just one undergraduate coordinator. Cindy Hahamovitch asked the senators to raise their hands if they think that faculty should have the authority to inform the students about the number of positive cases. 31 hands were raised. She repeated the same question twice by replacing faculty with undergraduate coordinator and administration. One and zero hands were raised, respectively.

Old Business:

None was reported.

Meeting was adjourned at4:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Caner Kazanci
Franklin College Senate Secretary and Senator for the Mathematics Department